

Appl. No. 10/733,986
Amld. dated August 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 3, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending. Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102. Claims 1, 6, and 10 have been amended. Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 6 is found in paragraphs 7, 8, and 14. Claim 10 was amended to address a matter of antecedent basis. Claims 1-10 remain for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. No new matter has been added.

The specification has been amended at paragraph [0008] to recite a carrier layer. Support for the carrier layer is found in the specification as originally filed.

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,692,302 to Martin et al. (hereinafter "Martin"). In view of the amendments to claims 1 and 6, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Claim 1 of the present application recites a shaving implement having a shaving head including a cap portion; at least one blade coupled to the shaving head and defining a cutting edge extending longitudinally of and approximately parallel to the cap portion; and a shaving composite coupled to the cap portion and defining a skin engaging surface. The shaving composite is disposed in a carrier layer of a comfort strip attached to the shaving head. The shaving composite includes a preventive. At least a portion of the preventive is transferable to a user's skin upon contact therewith during a shaving operation.

Claim 6 of the present application recites a method of incorporating a preventive on a shaving implement having a shaving composite. The method comprises the step of incorporating into the shaving composite a preventive that leaches with a water soluble phase. The step of incorporating the preventive into the shaving composite also includes a step of disposing the preventive into a carrier layer of a comfort strip of the shaving implement.

Martin is directed to therapeutic wound healing compositions for allegedly preventing and reducing injury to mammalian cells. The compositions are affixed to razor cartridges. The wound healing composition delivery system is preferably in the form of a solid strip of water-soluble encapsulating agent comprising the wound healing composition premixed with a polymeric delivery system. Binding a wound healing composition to a razor cartridge, as disclosed in Martin, allegedly results in a therapeutic razor cartridge that can reduce the duration and severity of shaving cuts and nicks.

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Martin fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a shaving implement in which a shaving composite is disposed in a carrier layer of a comfort strip attached to a shaving head, as recited in amended claim 1. A shaving composite disposed in a carrier layer of a comfort strip attached to a shaving head, as recited in claim 1 as amended, is not a solid strip of water-soluble encapsulating agent comprising a wound healing composition premixed with a polymeric delivery system, as in Martin. More specifically, the carrier layer of the present invention provides a substrate on which the shaving composite is carried, whereas Martin discloses agents that encapsulate wound healing compositions for controllable release thereof.

Martin further fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a method of incorporating a preventive on a shaving implement in which a step of incorporating the preventive into the shaving composite also includes a step of disposing the preventive into a carrier layer of a comfort strip of the shaving implement, as recited in amended claim 6. Because Martin does not disclose disposing the preventive into a carrier layer of a comfort strip, as stated above, he necessarily fails to disclose the method of incorporating a preventive on a shaving implement, as recited in amended claim 6.

To anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102, a single reference must disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. Absence from the reference of any claimed element negates anticipation. Because Martin fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a shaving implement in which a shaving composite is disposed in a carrier layer of a comfort strip attached to a shaving head, as recited in amended claim 1, claim 1 is not anticipated by the Martin reference. For at least this reason, claim 1 is allowable. Furthermore, because Martin fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a method of incorporating a preventive on a shaving implement in which a step of incorporating the preventive into the shaving composite also includes a step of disposing the preventive into a carrier layer of a comfort strip of the shaving implement, claim 6 is not anticipated by the Martin reference. For at least this reason, claim 6 is allowable. Because claims 1 and 6 are allowable for the foregoing reasons, Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of both claims 1 and 6.

Dependent claims, by definition, further define the subject matter of the independent claims from which they depend. Because claims 2-5 depend from claim 1, claims 2-5 add recitations that further define the subject matter of independent claim 1. Because claim 1 is believed to be allowable for at least the reason presented above, claims 2-5 are therefore also

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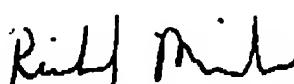
believed to be allowable. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 2-5 be withdrawn. Furthermore, because claims 7-10 depend from claim 6, claims 7-10 add recitations that further define the subject matter of independent claim 6. Because claim 6 is believed to be allowable for at least the reason presented above, claims 7-10 are therefore also believed to be allowable. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 7-10 be withdrawn.

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments and remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action and that the claims herein are allowable. In view of the foregoing points that distinguish Applicants' invention from those of the prior art and render Applicants' invention novel, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the present application, remove the rejections, and allow the application to issue.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Applicants believe that no fees are due with the submission of this Amendment. If any charges are incurred with respect to this Amendment, they may be charged to Deposit Account No. 503342 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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